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THE AMERICAN HOSPITAL AT NEUILLY NEAR PARIS¹

By MARY GOODRIDGE, R.N.

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In June, 1912, I was forced to have an operation for appendicitis and it was my good fortune to go to the American Hospital near Paris. I shall always be grateful for the excellent care I received there.



AMERICAN HOSPITAL AT NEUILLY, NEAR PARIS—VIEW FROM STREET

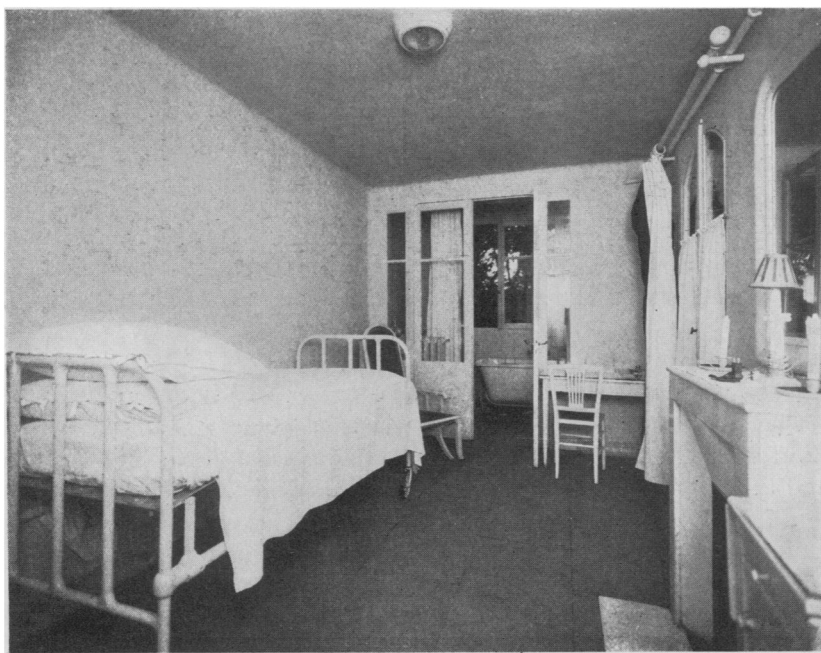
This hospital, for Americans only, was opened in April, 1910. It was incorporated under French law but in January, 1913, a Federal charter for the hospital was signed by the President of the United States and the hospital is now run on an American basis, so far as is possible in a foreign land.

I do not propose to go into the statistics of the large sums given by Americans which have made it possible to found and support this hospital, not long since an article in the *Paris Herald* gave all the names

¹ Photographs taken by H. C. Ellis, 13 Rue Brey, Paris, France.



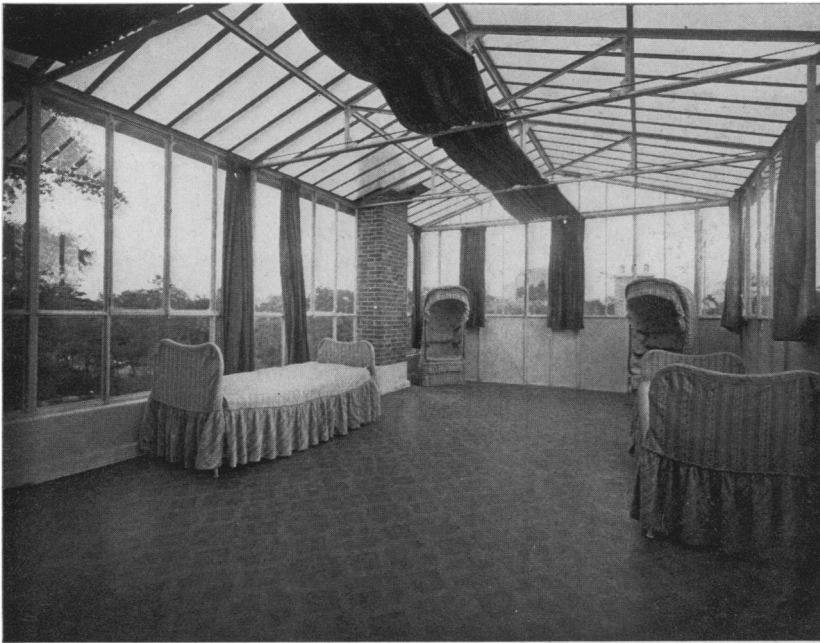
WARD IN AMERICAN HOSPITAL



A PRIVATE ROOM—AMERICAN HOSPITAL

and the amounts of the gifts, but I would only say that money is always needed, for the endowment fund is small, and the revenue from the private rooms only partially pays the running expenses.

The work has steadily grown and fills a much needed want both for rich and poor Americans. The hospital is at Neuilly, the entrance on a rather noisy little street, the Rue Chauveau, but the back gives on one of the most beautiful gardens that I have ever seen and all of the best rooms look on this garden. The rooms are all comfortable and the cleanliness absolute. The prices vary from \$4 per day for a moderate



SUN PORCH—AMERICAN HOSPITAL

sized room to \$14 for the garden suite with connecting bath room. There is an open fireplace in every room which must add greatly to the patient's comfort during the long stretch of gray sunless days that one has so often during the winter months in Paris.

In 1910 there were only twelve private rooms, but last June ten more were made possible by an unexpected gift, so at present there are twenty-two rooms, making with the two wards, of six beds each, a hospital of thirty-four beds. On the medical staff are Doctors Turner, Gros, Whitman and Magnin all able men, but the man who has brought the hospital to its present high standard of efficiency and who fills two-thirds

of the private rooms is Dr. Charles Du Bouchet, the only surgeon on the staff. He came to Paris shortly after the opening of the hospital, and he certainly has proved himself the man for the place, not only for his undoubted skill and great success as a surgeon, but also for his unfailing faithfulness to every detail, and his kind interest in the poorest of the ward patients.

The nursing side of the hospital is also well managed, the present superintendent is a capable New York Hospital graduate and she has succeeded in securing from her own hospital most of the nurses on the staff,



VIEW OF AMERICAN HOSPITAL FROM GARDEN AT REAR

although there are always some English trained nurses "specialing" there, as there never seem to be as many American nurses as are needed to supply the demand. In January last, a small training school was started. American nurses are preferred, but others are accepted, provided they write and speak English correctly. A three years' course is given and nurses wishing to join the school should apply to the superintendent of the hospital. Later on they hope to have a nurses' home on the garden, but at present an apartment near the hospital has been leased, and the nurses on the staff seem happy. Their dining room is on the first floor

of the hospital opening directly on the garden. It would be an advantage for a nurse, either as a graduate or in training there, to have some knowledge of the French language, for although the doctors are all Americans, the servants are French, and a nurse would be greatly handicapped with no knowledge of that language.

I have seen many hospitals, but it would be difficult to find a better managed or a more perfectly equipped little hospital than the one at Neuilly. I was there for two weeks and as a patient I was more than pleased with the care I received. During my convalescence it interested me, as a graduate, to see the working of the hospital. To me it fully equals, if it does not exceed, some of our best American institutions. Of course, the standard of cooking in France is superior to the average American cooking and I found the food nutritious and tempting. The tray service was well organized and the food was hot.

Altogether my sojourn there was as pleasant as it was possible to be under the trying circumstance of an operation. I now have forgotten all the discomfort, and think only of the good care and great kindness received there. One can hope that this hospital will continue to grow and prosper and that Americans in America will help on the great work, for Paris is a second home to many Americans and a number of our people are there at least once a year.

It was deemed advisable by the present rector of Holy Trinity Church in Paris to close, a few months since, the small hospital in the Latin Quarter called Holy Trinity Hospital, which was started before the opening of the present American hospital, for poor Americans and was supported entirely by the American Church on the Avenue de l'Alma.

There is, this winter, a district nurse who visits the Latin Quarter and sends to the American Hospital those needing hospital treatment. The rector considered it best to have a hospital fund to meet the expenses of the poor patients rather than to keep open Holy Trinity Hospital when the funds were quite inadequate to meet the repairs that had become necessary in so old a building. He felt that it was better to concentrate and send to the American Hospital the patients who for some years had been cared for at the little hospital in the Latin Quarter. While of course the income derived from the private rooms goes towards the fund for general expenses, no patient is ever turned away because unable to pay.